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SENATOR WITEK: ...can go to this same group of people, these nursing home and assisted living people. And this is not just public nursing homes, these are for-profit. And they're going to make a good profit on this, (laugh) 'cause they don't have to even repay their loan. We're going to...we can repay it. And they're going to make a good profit on it even if they do, 'cause if they get a grant, you're going to pay for 80 percent of it, and they are going to pay for 20 percent of it. that's a darn good business deal these people are making with the people in this Legislature. And to me, as a business person, there's nobody offering 80 percent of my business costs for no repayment, and there's nobody offering to guarantee every loan I've ever taken out for 100 percent with taxpayer dollars. You know, this is...this bill is addressing hundreds of millions of dollars, and it is addressing issues that I know are very But I certainly hope we're taking some time to complicated. really take a look at this, talk to the bankers in your community ...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time. Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Yeah, thank you. I'm sorry, I'm just getting Let me... tips from Senator Wickersham. Senator Witek is revisiting the whole essence of the bill, and so led me take a moment to do that as well. The amendment before you is truly a clean-up amendment, and there's...I don't think that there should be any concern about any particular elements of it. But let me revisit what Senator Witek is really concerned about, and that is the idea of some of this money going into helping nursing homes convert to assisted living. And we went through this before, but let me try it again. We are not sitting here throwing money at nursing homes. We are trying to identify one of the more serious fiscal problems the state of Nebraska faces today and into the future, and that is the question of how we meet the needs of our elderly as they age, and that is happening so much more, with so much more difficulty in meeting their physical needs as they grow older and older. And do we use nursing homes, which are expensive? Do you...do we use assisted living? Do we use community-based services? But in the end, one way or the other, there's a need that's going to have to be